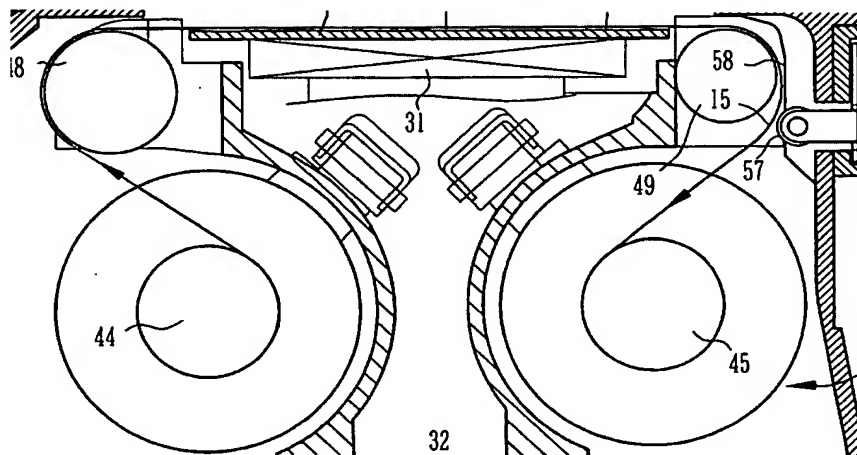


REMARKS

This application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

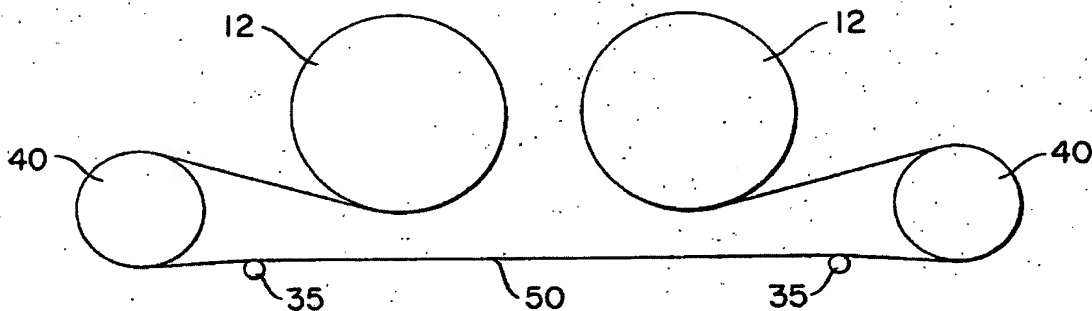
The Official Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 USC §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by KING et al. 3,421,424. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

Reproduced below is a portion of Figure 5 of the present application, which serves an overall indication of the arrangement of the various elements of the present invention, including the feeder and take-up rollers 44 and 45, the first and second guide rollers 48 and 49, and the guide roller 57.



For purposes of comparison, applicant has provided a reproduction of Figure 6 from the applied KING et al. patent. The Official Action reads the recited rollers on elements 12, the

recited first and second guide rollers on elements 40, and the recited roller on either of elements 35 as illustrated in Figure 6.



As is very clear from the comparison of the above two illustrations, the present invention contemplates placing the roller 57 along the film path between the second guide roller 49 and the take-up spool 45. In contrast, the elements 35 illustrated in Figure 6 of the applied reference are positioned along the film path between the respective guide rollers 40 and the exposure aperture of the camera. Additionally, the roller 57 of the present invention is positioned with respect to the film path so that it makes actual contact with the film only when the film is not taut between the second guide roller 49 and the take-up spool 45.

This is clearly not the case with the apparatus of the KING et al. patent. Accordingly, please note that applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite that the roller is positioned to come into contact with the roll film either at a point between the second guide roller and the take-up spool or at a point between the first guide roller and the feeder spool. This recited feature clearly cannot read on the apparatus of KING et al.

Such amendment should render claim 1, together with all claims that depend therefrom, unanticipated by the applied reference.

Additionally, please note that applicant has amended claim 5 to clarify that the recited rib is positioned to come into contact with only a margin of the roll film outside of an exposure area. This characteristic of the present invention is clear at least from present Figure 6 which shows that the illustrated rib 58 makes contact with the film only outside of the exposure aperture area 22, also illustrated in such figure.

In addition to such amendment, please note that applicant has added new claims 7-14, of which claims 7 and 11 are independent. Claim 7 recites an embodiment in which the roller is disposed along the film path between the second guide roller and the take-up spool, whereas new independent claim 11 is specifically directed toward an embodiment in which the roller is

disposed along the film path between the feeder spool and the first guide roller.

Each of independent claims 7 and 11 specifically recites that the roller is positioned so that the roller does not make contact with the roll film if the roll film passes tightly around the recited guide roller and spool. The roller is defined as making contact with the roll film only if there is slack in the roll film between such guide roller and spool. This characteristic is evident from at least the portion of Figure 5 of the present application reproduced above, and is clearly not present in the device of KING et al. New claims 8-10 (depending from new independent claim 7) and claims 12-14 (depending from claim 11) recite additional features neither disclosed, taught, nor suggested by the known prior art.

In light of the amendments described above and the arguments offered in support thereof, applicant respectfully suggests that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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